



Safety and Health Working Team

September 28-30, 2004
Boise, ID

ATTENDANCE

Paul Broyles	NPS, NIFC
John Gould	BIA, NIFC
Michelle Ryerson	BLM, NIFC
Rod Bloms	USFWS, NIFC
Stan Palmer	BLM, NIFC
Leslie Anderson	USFS, MTDC
Al King	NPS, NIFC
Bob Ashworth	NV DOF
Ed Forrester	WI, DNR
Ed Hollenshead	USFS, NIFC
Karin Nichols	BLM, NIFC

Guests:

Dr. Brian Sharkey, MTDC
Kelly Woods, Boise NF Fire Manager
Hallie Locklear, Chair IBPWT
Rick Mills, Aviation Management Directorate

Review Action Log – All

The team reviewed and updated the Action Log. These updates will be posted to the website once the changes/corrections are made.

Review five MTDC videos for inclusion in PMS – Palmer, King

It was decided to include three MTDC videos in the PMS.

1. Focus on the Mission: Transporting Wildland Fire Fighters
2. Backing Up on Forest Roads
3. Driving Mountain Roads

Action Item: *Package the three driving MTDC videos into DVD/CD format & submit to PMS – (King, Bloms)*

Work/Rest Guidelines memo dated 7/12/04 – Ryerson

There is a concern that this document was forwarded to the field without national level agency representatives being aware of it and without a transmittal memo. The issue is the procedural process of how instruction comes from the parent group.

Action Item: Follow up with the SHWT liaison to NWCG about the procedural process of how instruction comes from the parent group. – (Broyles)

NWCG Budget Process; propose Issue Paper – Ryerson

Across the board budget cuts do not allow for long term projects/ budget commitments. The SHWT feels there should be a priority system in place to evaluate budget reductions. The team agreed to draft up an issue paper to petition the parent group to assess individual WT budget request priorities. However, prior to an issue paper, the team will talk to fire directors to find out how budget cuts were made and see if they support the issue paper

Action Item: Visit with individual Fire Directors, identify how NWCG budgets reductions were decided and verify if support SHWT issue paper.

Use of SOF's on Rx burns: SHWT & FUWT response – Gould, King

The SHWT discussed the issue of using SOF's on prescribed burns. The staffing requirements of RX burns are at the agency level. The Red Book directs to the RX Burn Complexity Analysis which will be obsolete very soon. Case by case basis is used at this point, but a position should be dedicated to safety operations. If a burn is determined complex enough put a safety position on it; When to trigger? At high complexity or moderate level? What type? SOFR or Safety Oversight? Or determine at the time? These questions remain unresolved.

Action Item: Coordinate with Mike Long, NWCG Liaison, to get some direction from the parent group, and then continue with the issue. (Broyles)

SOFR Proposal – Hollenshead

The SHWT reviewed the proposed safety officer qualifications. The task group will finalize the proposal for the next meeting.

Action Item: Finalize the proposal for team review at the next meeting. (Hollenshead, Madden, Ashworth, Bloms)

Refresher Training / Continuing Education – Gould

The team discussed the FFAST initiative to continue the development of an annual fire refresher training program (video). This, exclusively BLM produced, product has been recognized as a valuable tool used by multiple agencies. It is proposed that NWCG adopt this product and produce it within the NWCG curricula.

Action Item: Draft proposal to NWCG parent group. (Gould, King 12/15/04)

Lessons Learned Center report – Gould

LLC is creating a database of lessons learned from accident reports to post on their website for data retrieval. Dave Christensen will have the model of the database ready by the next SHWT meeting for briefing the SHWT of the query capabilities of the database.

Action Item: Invite Dave Christensen to attend the February SHWT meeting. (Broyles)

Effects of DEET on aramid clothing – Anderson

The MTDC will be evaluating DEET effects on Nomex clothing. The study plan includes 26 tests and will compare the results to NFPA standards. Results should be available by the February SHWT meeting.

Glossary Update – Ryerson

The final submission of SHWT glossary terms went through without any changes. The DAWG is proposing a “mega-glossary” to include many terms that are not specifically wildland fire specific. Additionally, they are looking at and standardizing the unit identifier acronyms in the FIRECODE system.

Safety Poster proposal – Kelly Woods, Boise National Forest

The Boise NF fire staff has developed a poster (“How is your Situational Awareness?” a 2’ x3’ with side-by-side pictures of the Mann Gulch, South Canyon, and Cramer fires) and is looking for a sponsor to include this poster in the PMS. An initial order of 40K will be delivered around 10/15/04; copies will be available for all the agencies. The SHWT agreed to add the poster to the already existing poster CD and continue the CD as a “poster series” updating as needed.

*Action Item: Check into the requirements of adding this poster to the poster CD.
(Ryerson)*

MTDC update - Brian Sharkey

Brian gave the team an update on some of the Safety and Health research activities/ field studies currently being conducted.

H/O #1 - ICS Positional Study, combined data from 2003 and 2004 Fire Seasons

Activity monitors were placed for one to three day periods on 8 dozer bosses (2003), 15 division supervisors (7 in 2003 and 8 in 2004) 14 safety officers (6 in 2003 and 8 in 2004) 11 strike team leader engine (2004) 9 strike team leader dozer (2004) and 1 situation unit leader (2004) during fires in Montana and Washington (Region 1). The data evaluated would suggest SITL, STDZ, STEN and DZB do not require the arduous pack test to meet the normal demands of their job. The SOF has somewhat elevated peak measures but does not require the arduous test. DIVS should continue to meet the arduous pack test requirement, as it appears that the stress of the job is similar to, or above, that required by the test. These data do not reflect escape or other situations that may arise for individual firefighters and further study remains necessary. Additionally, these data may not be representative of the overall requirements of any of the three positions due to the limited sample size and short duration of data collection.

Some other topics Brian briefed the team on were:

- Drinking behavior with hydration systems (CamelBak): a summary will be out later.
- Effects of Supplemental Feeding on Cognitive Function in Wildland Firefighters During Arduous Fire Suppression.

Ripped Fuel pills: after discussion of feedback received from the field, the team agreed that the risk of these types of supplements is worth issuing a Safety Bulletin.

Action Item: Draft up safety bulletin regarding stimulants that increase heart rate, act as diuretics, etc... (Ryerson, Gould, Sharkey)

MTDC Safety and Health projects; priorities, future emphasis, future funding, etc – Anderson

In order to ascertain priorities for budget requests, identification and expansion of the history of MTDC projects is necessary. Once the team has this information for evaluation, priorities will be established.

Action Item: Identify and expand on the history and benefits of MTDC projects. This will be used for the budget request process, including the SHWT Strategic Plan. (Anderson, Sharkey)

Developing a training presentation of recent fire fatalities – review Thirtymile PPT – All
The team reviewed the “Lessons from the Thirtymile Fire” PowerPoint presentation. The team has identified the need for a training product that pulls the lessons learned from pivotal fatality investigations. The team feels that the Thirtymile PPT is a good model to establish standards for the Leadership Committee to adopt.

Action Item: Draft briefing paper to NWCG TWT suggesting that presentations be developed from future investigations and that this model be used for setting the standards used in the future. (Hollenshead)

IRPG - Spot Weather Forecast - Broyles

The team considered a proposal to include a “Spot Weather Forecast Checklist” in the IRPG. This proposal will be passed on to the IRPG Committee Chair for consideration in the next IRPG update.

Fire line fatalities (Early R-5 study) – Forester

This topic will be discussed in further detail at the February meeting.

Bilingual issues – Broyles, Hollenshead

The team discussed and clarified the topic of civil rights related issues surrounding the implementation of the bilingual policy approved by NWCG. This was determined to be a Forest Service specific issue.

Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy/Directives Task Group - Bloms

Rod briefed the team regarding the Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (17 approved policy statements). Information regarding this topic can be found at: www.nifc.gov/fire_policy/.

Update on I-Suites proposal – Gould/

Conference call with Mary Ann Szymoniak and John Skeels

The SHWT has requested an addition to the I-Suite Software package that would capture large fire accident and injury data. The SHWT visited with the I-Suite project manager. Some items of interest from the call: One screen of data costs \$75-\$100K each, and any development would take 2 years to get the funding through the proper USFS channels. Also would have to go through OMB. First step: identify business needs of the expected data by getting a small group, a minimum of 1-FS, 1-DOI, and 1-State representative, together in Denver with John Skeels. Second step: put a proposal package together for submitting to the NWCG.

***Action Item:** Meet with Mary Ann Szymoniak to start identifying the needs and define the framework of the data the SHWT would like to extract from I-Suites. (Ryerson, Gould, Madden and Hollenshead)*

Contract and EERA resources - Hallie Locklear (IBPWT)

Hallie Locklear, Chair IBPWT gave the SHWT an update of the recent activities of the IBPWT regarding contract crews and EERA resources.

PMS publications updates – Bloms

The SHWT reviewed the list of documents the team is responsible for. Some items for consideration are: Butte Fire Shelter Incident ('86), Crank Fire Burnover ('87), and Wenatchee Heights Burnover ('92). The TWT has transferred three items to the SHWT; the Mack Lake Fire (decline), HazMat (Ryerson will review), and Lessons Learned Case Study (Bloms will talk to Sutton)

***Action Item:** HazMat; Review to determine if this publication contains valid information. (Ryerson)*

***Action Item:** Bring 2004 report, stocking levels and amounts sold to February meeting (Bloms)*

2005 Human Factors in Wildfire Workshop (4/25-28/05)

The team discussed the 2005 Human Factors in Wildfire Workshop call for papers and participation.

***Action Item:** Accident Investigation-Identify Human Factors during and investigation Presentation (Ryerson)*

***Action Item:** Present a SAFENET update (Gould)*

***Action Item:** SHWT needs to be getting feedback from the IAWF Safety Summit indicating priorities of necessary research. Take this issue to the IAWF council. (Anderson)*

Server hosting and IT support of the Safety Alert system and SAFENET - Rick Mills

The team addressed the new NWCG funding responsibilities (previously paid for by the BIA) with Rick Mills of the Aviation Management Directorate (AMD). Paul expressed appreciation

for, and continuation of, the level of support from AMD. The funding for this project will flow through the NPS channels.

Safety Gram Criteria - Ryerson

After lengthy discussion, the team agreed to establish criteria for reporting to the Safety Gram.

***Action Item:** establish and finalize criteria for Safety Gram reporting. (Ryerson, Palmer)*

Additionally, each SHWT member is tasked with reviewing the draft versions of the Safety Gram for accuracy and providing information to Stan for inclusion.

Future meeting dates, location & hosting rotations – All

FL State (2/1-3/05 – FL)
NPS – (5/17-19/05 – NY)
WI State – (9/19-21/05 - NM)
BIA – (1/23-25/06)
NV State – (Spring '06)
FWS - (Fall '06)
BLM – (Winter '07)
FS – (Spring '07)
FL State– (Fall '07)
WI State – (Winter '08)

Liaison Reports – All

Liaison reports were given from:

IOSWT – Paul
DAWG – Michelle
FFAST – John
MTDC, NFPA, IAWF – Leslie
PMS, Medical Stds – Rod
EMSG - Gene

Conference Calls:

Nov 10, 2004 – 1300 MST
Dec 16, 2004 – 1300 MST
Jan 13, 2005 – 1330 MST

February, 2005 Meeting Agenda Items:

Fatigue and firefighter video revision (not in video format)
Operation policy changes in R-5, fire line fatalities history
PMS update
Strategic Planning Session